

WATER
ALAMEDA COUNTY, CALIF.

KEEP IN ORDER BY DATE

Hayward Area Faces Water Rationing

Mayor Calls for Strict Conservation, Warns of Shortage

TRIB D JAN 27 1948

Voluntary conservation of water, with the possibility of compulsory rationing by summer, was asked in Hayward today as water shortages grew steadily worse in the grip of California's worst winter drought in 70 years.

Mayor John D. Haar, of Hayward, said in a proclamation that Hayward's water shortage is critical. He outlined a seven-point program as "vital" for conservation, urging residents to check all water outlets for leaks, voluntarily police hotels, railroad stations and other public facilities for waste and guard against waste wherever water is used.

The water supply comes from wells near Mt. Eden and it is not likely that a pipeline which will bring Hetch Hetchy water to Hayward will be completed by this summer, Mayor Haar said.

NO RAIN IN SIGHT

The U.S. Weather Bureau forecast more clear, cold weather. Hope that a small storm in the North Pacific would bring some rain was abandoned.

Meanwhile, the California Farm Bureau Federation in Berkeley announced it will start next week on "one of the heaviest economic crusades in the 30-year life" of the organization.

The Federation will hold a series of 18 public mass meetings from Kern County to Shasta County to

New Mexico Blizzard

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M., Jan. 27.—(P)—A blizzard, which the Weather Bureau said was one of the worst since 1893, swept New Mexico today. Schools were closed at Albuquerque and Santa Fe, the state capital, to

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New cold wave, Page 19

establish a "sound and practical water policy—one which will safeguard and protect all of our available water supplies."

Ray B. Wiser, president of the Federation, said the policy would call for conserving water and soil, safeguarding individual water rights, eliminating the 160-acre proposal and completing the Central Valley project as rapidly as possible.

MASS MEETING DATES

The mass meetings scheduled are: Bakersfield, February 2; Visalia, February 3; Hanford, February 3; Fresno, February 4; Reedley, February 4; Madera, February 5; Merced, February 5; Hughson, February 9; **Stockton, February 10; Sacramento, February 10; Marysville, February 11; Chico, February 11; Redding, February 12; Willows, February 12; Woodland, February 17; Modesto, February 18; Oakdale, February 18; and Red Bluff, February 19.**

Temperatures throughout the Bay area dropped sharply today, while the skies at least kept up summer appearance without a cloud in sight. The low at Oakland Municipal Airport today was 36 degrees. At Orinda it was 22, Walnut Creek, 25, Lafayette, 25; Niles, 33; and Brentwood, 33.

COLD IN LOS ANGELES

Los Angeles had its coldest morning of the year, with a low of 36 degrees, today and orchard heating, which has been in practice during the past week, was resorted to in the citrus belt.

Although the immediate water situation is not considered an emergency, the lack of a heavy snow pack in the mountains has caused great concern for the spring and summer runoff. The Weather Bureau said the snow pack is four to five feet less than normal.

As word was awaited on Governor Warren's request for Navy ships to provide power for some cities, the Mare Island Navy Yard in Vallejo announced its steam power plant has been supplying 8000 kilowatt-hours of power daily to the Pacific Gas and Electric Company for the past three months. The P.G. and E. has been operating its own steam generating plants at capacity to conserve hydro-electric power.

One effect of the drought is the early blossoming of thousands of acres of peaches and other fruit orchards, which now face the danger of frost.

Dry Weather, Overdraft on Wells Blamed for Condition—Salt Water Intrusion Problem Also Intensified

TRD JAN 15 1960

A downward trend in underground water levels, caused by dry weather and an overdraft on wells, continues to plague southern Alameda County.

Dwindling tables have not only brought a shortage of

water reserves, but have intensified the salt water intrusion problem.

The condition is cited in a bulletin released today by the State Department of Water Resources. The bulletin also reports on similar situations in at least eight other major areas in central and Northern California.

MORE RAIN NEEDED

As in other regions, sagging water tables in southern Alameda County can be attributed to one factor: not enough rain.

Water officials define overdraft as pumping out more underground water than is naturally replenished. The winter of 1958-59 was a dry one, and there was little replenishing.

And the problem compounds itself. The less rain and stream runoff there is, the more farmers and water companies pump from underground.

Until the recent storms, 1959-60 promised to be another record dry year. The recent rain is a help, but so far there has been no runoff from the major creeks in the area.

SALT MOVES IN

Richard Karn, chief of water resources and planning for the Alameda County Water District, says that the problem of overdraft is further aggravated by the need to supply growing populations in cities like Fremont, Newark and Union City.

Coupled with the overdraft is the problem of saline water intrusion into the upper ground strata or aquifer and in some cases the lower aquifer of the Niles Cone, an underground natural reservoir.

Reduced runoff and increased pumping have sent water levels in underground basins to below sea level.

This allows salt water to intrude and once it penetrates a fresh water aquifer it is difficult and expensive to flush out.

At present most of the intrusion has been limited to the upper aquifer extending as deep as 150 feet below the

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LIVERMORE HIT TOO

There is a similar overdraft problem in the Livermore Valley, according to the department bulletin. However, because of its distance from the bay, salt water does not intrude underground.

The department bulletin also cites underground water shortages in the southwestern part of the San Joaquin Valley, Petaluma Valley, parts of Sonoma and Napa Valleys, Suisun-Fairfield Valley, the Hollister area, Pajaro Valley and Salinas Valley. In the latter two there is the added problem of salt water intrusion.

The bulletin says the downward trend in water tables has prevailed for the past 10 to 20 years, and has been a serious problem since the fall of 1958.